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DATA ON RURAL ELECTRIFICATION AND LAND IMPROVEMENT IN THE USSR, JULY - AUGUST 1953

Comment: This report presents information, from July - August 1953 Soviet newspapers, on rural electrification in nine union republics of the USSR, and on land improvement in eight union republics. Progress and statistical data are given on the following: construction of rural GES (hydroelectric power stations), rural-electrification plan fulfillments, land-improvement plan fulfillments, drainage, land reclamation, and irrigation.

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION

Estonian SSR

A total of eight interkolkhoz and 27 kolkhoz electric power stations are now being operated in the republic, providing more than 300 kolkhozes with electric power. A total capacity of 2,100 kilowatts of additional power will be supplied by the new stations scheduled for completion by the end of the Fifth Five-

Lithuanian SSR

In 1953, the volume of capital construction and installation work_involved in electrification in the republic has been 1.5 times as great as in [all of ?] 1952. Five large-scale kolkhoz GES, situated on the Streva, Nevezhis, and other rivers, are being consolidated. Their power capacity will be three times as great as that produced by GES constructed in 1952.

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In 1952, 14 large-scale kolkhozes were serviced by seven rural electric power stations; also in 1952, about 340 electric motors were installed in kolkhozes and MTS, where they were to be used to mechanize labor-consuming work. Hundreds of kolkhozes and more than 100 MTS have been electrified in the republic.(2)

Belorussian SSR

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More than 2,000 electric motors for threshing and other agricultural operations have been installed on livestock farms of the republic; 600 kolkhozes of the republic have already been electrified.(3)

The Klyuchegorskaya Interkolkhoz GES in Mekhovo, Vitebskaya Oblast, was put into operation on 1 July 1953; it has a capacity of 220 kilowatts.(4)

Kolkhozes of Gomel'skaya Oblast in 1953 are using 1.5 times as much electric power as in 1952; eight new kolkhoz electric power stations are under construction.(5)

Ukrainian SSR

The completion of the Zhitomirskaya Interkolkhoz GES, which has a capacity of 435 kilowatts, brings the number of electrified kolkhozes in the republic to over 3,600. The new GES is situated on the Teterev River.

Other large-scale interkolkhoz GES recently put into operation are: Topol'kovskaya GES, on the Ternopol'shchin River; Yurgovskaya GES, in Kamenets-Podol'skaya Oblast; Mlinovskaya GES, in Rovenskaya Oblast; and a number of others.

More than 600 interkolkhoz GES are in operation in the republic, with 27 additional ones to be constructed by the end of 1953.(6)

An interkolkhoz GES with a power capacity of 1,450 kilowatts is being constructed in the village of Skalopol', Chernevetskiy Rayon, on the Murafa River.

The construction of an interkolkhoz GES which will be the largest in the Soviet Union has been started in the village of Glubochek, Teplikskiy Rayon, on the Many Bug River. It will have a capacity of 1,400 kilowatts and will service many kolkhozes in Dzhulinskiy and Bershadskiy rayons.(7)

The interkolkhoz GES put into operation on 4 July in the village of Kuntsevo on the Vorskla River has a capacity of 420 kilowatts and will service 19 villages and settlements in Novo-Senzharskiy Rayon, Poltavskaya Oblast.(8)

About 200 kolkhozes and villages in L'vovskaya Oblast have been electrified, and 100 kolkhozes have their own electric power stations. The agricultural demands on electric power are constantly growing: villages in the oblast consumed 1,500 kilowatt-hours of electricity in 1950, and 4,126 kilowatt-hours in 1952; in 1953, consumption of current will be twice as great as in 1952.

More than 500 electric motors have been installed in kolkhozes of the oblast; of this number, 300 were installed in animal husbandry farms.(9)

Georgian SSR

The Kutaisi Inter-Rayon Office of "Gruzsel'elektro" has undertaken the electrification of 17 rayons in the western part of the republic and in 1953 will spend 3,889,000 rubles for the construction of rural GES.

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More than 25 electric power stations have been erected in recent years, and some 150 settlements have been electrified in the republic. In 1953, five electric power stations have gone into operation and ten settlements have been electrified. An additional 12 kolkhozes will be electrified by the end of 1953, upon the completion of GES in Onskiy and Ordzhonikidzevskiy rayons.

GES put into operation in 1953 in Lentekhskiy, Tsagerskiy, Ambrolaurskiy, and other rayons include Orbel GES, Cholur GES, and Rachkha GES. Service by these GES will be extended to incubator stations, seven MTS, mills, and kolkhoz livestock farms.(10)

On 30 June, one of the largest GES in the republic was put into operation on the Kabala River. It will service six rayons in the Alazan' River Valley. An additional 20 rural GES are under construction; their total capacity will reach 13,000 kilowatts, and 11 of them will be completed in 1953.(11)

Azerbaydzhan SSR

An interkolkhoz GES recently completed on the Vel'vel' River in Kubinskiy Rayon has a capacity of 230 kilowatts and serves five kolkhozes.(12)

RSFSR

One of the largest GES in Moskovskaya Oblast was put into service on 26 July in the village of Gorbovo, Ruzskiy Rayon.

The Gorbovskaya GES on the Ruza River is constructed of concrete, has a capacity of 360 kilowatts, and will service the following: 44 settlements embraced by seven consolidated kolkhozes; Ruza, the rayon center; 28 animal husbandry farms, threshing floors, pump houses, and other installations.(13)

The completion of a 400-kilowatt hydroclectric power station on the Sura River in Chaadayevka on 26 July will provide service for six large-scale kolkhozes, MTS, and sovkhozes in Penzenskaya Oblast.

By the end of 1953, the seven electric power stations under construction in rural areas of the oblast will service an additional 25 kolkhozes.(14)

The Zapolitskaya State GES in Suzdal'skiy Rayon was put into operation on 12 July. Its 525-kilowatt capacity makes it the largest in the oblast; it is the third GES set up in 1953, and the 68th erected in Vladimirskaya Oblast since the end of the war. In 1953, the electric power capacity in the oblast will be increased almost 1,000 kilowatts.(15)

Kazakh SSR

The Nizhnetentekskaya GES, one of five interkolkhoz GES planned for the Semirech'ye region of the republic, will have a capacity of from 1,200 to 3,000 kilowatts. The other four GES to be constructed are: Antonovskaya GES on the Lepsa River, Abakumovskaya GES on the Ak-Su River, Uspenskaya GES on the Orta-Tentek River, and Budennovskaya GES on the Kok-Su River.(16)

The Stalinskaya Interkolkhoz GES recently put into operation, in Makanchinskiy Rayon, Semipalatinskaya Oblast, has a capacity of 176 kilowatts.

There are now 1,560 rural and kolkhoz GES and two kolkhoz steam-electric power stations in the republic; ll new interkolkhoz and kolkhoz GES and two kolkhoz steam-electric power stations have been put into service in 1953. The 61 electric power stations now under construction will contribute to the further development of rural electrification.(17)

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The Merkenskaya Interkolkhoz GES on the Merke River, put into operation on 3 August, has a capacity of 520 kilowatts and is the second GES to be set up in Merkenskiy Rayon. The GES will service seven kolkhozes, five of which it has al-

Construction of the Zhdanovskaya GES resulted in the complete electrification of kolkhozes in Sayramskiy Rayon, where there are now 13 kolkhoz and inter-

Over 30 motors are in use in the Kolkhoz imeni Andreyev; they will effect a saving of 3,000 work days in 1953.(19)

Uzbek SSR

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A new GES with a capacity of 165 kilowatts was recently put into operation in Samarkandskaya Oblast. The new station, the largest in the oblast, has five transformer substations and 17 kilometers of electric power lines. (20)

LAND IMPROVEMENT

Karelo-Finnish SSR

Land-improvement operations in the republic thus far in 1953 have resulted in the drainage of an area five times as large as that drained in 1952. The work was accomplished by specialized stations and by the mechanized land-improvement units attached to MTS. Labor-consuming work is now 90 percent mechanized in the setting up of drainage systems, the clearing away of brushwood, and the removal of stones.

The Leningrad State Institute for Planning Water Resources and Land Improvement has drawn up plans for the drainage of 8,000 hectares of marshland in the basin of

Land improvement in kolkhozes and sovkhozes of the republic is proceeding at an extremely slow pace. As of 1 August, kolkhozes had completed only 20 percent of the plan for land drainage, and sovkhozes had made an even worse showing. (23)

Latvian SSR

The 1953 volume of work to be performed by mechanized land-improvement stations of the republic will be approximately 1.5 times as great as the 1952 output. Landimprovement specialists are working for an early fulfillment of the land-drainage plan and the plan for preparing land for agricultural uses. (24)

Lithuanian SSR

During the last 2 years, kolkhozes of the republic have reclaimed 69,000 hectares of land for agricultural purposes. In kolkhozes alone, 300.000 hectares of land are scheduled for reclamation by the end of the Fifth Five-Year Plan. Machinery and mechanical devices are used in all land-improvement operations, with seven mechanized land-improvement stations functioning and three scheduled to be con-

Belorussian SSR

The Leningrad State Institute for Planning Water Resources and Land Improvement is doubling its volume of work during the second half of 1953 in the nonchernozem region of the republic. Workers of the institute are preparing to drain an area of 12,000 hectares of marshlands in the basin of the Neman River (22)

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The Ivanovskaya Mechanized Land Improvement Station in Pinskaya Oblast has planned to accomplish the following in 1953: to drain 3,635 hectares of fertile land; to plow 2,400 hectares of virgin soil that has been drained; to construct l4 bridges; and to erect four sluices.(26)

Ukrainian SSR

In spring 1953, the largest irrigation network in the republic, the Kamenskaya Irrigation System, watered its first 3,000 hectares of land. About 7 million rubles were spent in constructing the network; but its first year of operation was judged ineffective, since only a third of its capacity was utilized.(27)

The irrigation system now under construction between the Ingulets and Yuzhnyy Bug rivers is scheduled to be the largest in the republic. The system will irrigate an area of 60,000 hectares.(28)

Drainage of peat bogs, which was started in Volynskaya Oblast in 1951, resulted in the reclamation of 30,000 hectares of land in the same year and, as a result of drainage operations, an additional area of 19,000 hectares was improved in vation of crops and fodder. (29)

In the suburbs of L'vov, the extensive fields of five kolkhozes occupy an area that a short time ago was swampy marshland. In spring 1953, more than 650 hectares of vegetables were planted in the reclaimed swamp area.(30)

RSFSR

More than 27,000 hectares of land in the river valleys flooded by the Moskva, Yakhroma, and Oka rivers in Moskovskaya Oblast will be drained before the end of 1953; vegetables will be sown on 12,000 hectares of the reclaimed land.(31)

Squads of land-improvement specialists, set up in 23 MTS of Leningradskaya Oblast, are engaged in extensive land development in kolkhozes of the oblast.(32)

The Leningrad State Institute for Planning Water Resources and Land Improvement has made land-improvement surveys in kolkhozes of 28 rayons in Leningradskaya

Kazakh SSR

In 1952-1953, kolkhoz workers of Novocherkasskiy Rayon, Akmolinskaya Oblast, constructed 28 dams, ponds, and reservoirs on the Ishim and Koluton rivers and in ravines of the steppe region. As a result of these projects, 38,000 hectares of meadowland were irrigated in 1953.(33)

Uzbek SSR

The mechanization of irrigation and of land improvement is constantly being increased in the republic, so that at present more than 70 percent of all excavation work involved in constructing irrigation canals is mechanized.

There are 25 mechanized excavation stations in the republic; 30 new excavators were sent to them in 1953, principally to the Fergana Valley, Bukharskaya Oblast, where new areas are being utilized for growing cotton.(34)

However, by 1 July, only 18 percent of the plan for construction work connected with irrigation and land improvement in the republic had been accomplished. Construction of irrigation systems in the Kara-Kalpaksknya ASSR was 20.0 percent of plan; in Namanganskaya Oblast, only 9.6 percent of the plan was completed. (35)

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Extensive land areas are being reclaimed and developed in Bukharskayn Oblast. All labor operations are being performed by machines.

The Vabkentskaya Mechanized Excavation Station was created in 1953 for the reclamation of new lands. Excavation workers are constructing a collector network which will permit more rapid drainage of ground waters and the removal of salts from the soil. New areas will be sown to cotton in spring 1954. Twice as much excavation machinery is now in use in the oblast as in 1952.(36)

The monthly plan for cleaning the collector and drainage networks of the irrigation system in Namanganskaya Oblast was fulfilled 53 percent from 15 to 25 August. The same plan in Ferganskaya Oblast was fulfilled only 24 percent on 25 August, and 27 percent in Andizhanskaya Oblast.

Not a single oblast had fulfilled that part of its assignments which called for delegating kolkhoz workers to participate in irrigation and land-improvement work: in Tashkentskaya Oblast on 19 August, only 7,215 workers were so employed instead of 25,920 planned; in Ferganskaya Oblast, 14,000 workers instead of 43,000; and in Andizhanskaya Oblast, 10,000 workers instead of 29,000.

The following table shows the percentage fulfillment of the August 1953 plans for all types of irrigation and land improvement work, and for delegating kolkhoz workers to participate in such work, as of 25 August.(37)

Oblast	Amount of Work Performed (in percent of plan)	Number of Workers Delegated (in percent of planned number)
Andizhanskaya Bukharskaya	11 35	42
Ferganskaya Kara-Kalpakskaya ASSR	- 7	19 43
Khorezmskaya Namanganskaya	4	19 24
Samarkandskaya Surkhan-Dar'inskaya	114 6	33
Tashkentskaya	6 9	43 38 31

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